AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please make the following amendments to the specification.

Amend last paragraph on p. 18:

Local interface 14 communicates with ATM layer device 12, address expansion device 18, and each second channel port 24 in each PHY layer device 20 via a plurality of data addresses. The plurality of addresses on local interface 14 is allocated as follows. Each of the second channel ports 22 on each of the PHY layer devices 20 has an address on local interface 18, and ATM layer device 12 is in communication with each of these second channel ports 22 through its respective address. Address expansion device 18 has an address on local interface 18, and ATM layer device 12 is in communication with address expansion device 18 through this address. Thus, address expansion device 18 appears as another PHY layer device to ATM layer device 12. ~~Address expansion interface 16 communicates with address expansion device 18 and each first channel port 22 in each PHY layer device 20 via a plurality of data addresses. Local interface 14 and address expansion interface 16 may be any data path interface capable of providing communication between an ATM layer device and a plurality of PHY layer devices. In the preferred embodiment of system 10, local interface 14 and address expansion interface 16 conform to the UTOPIA level 2 specification described above.~~

Add as new paragraphs after last paragraph on p. 18:

Address expansion interface 16 communicates with address expansion device 18 and each first channel port 24 in each PHY layer device 20 via a plurality of data addresses. The plurality of addresses on address expansion interface 16 is allocated as follows. Each of the first channel ports 22 on each of the PHY layer devices 20 has an address on address expansion

interface 18, and address expansion interface 16 is in communication with each of these first channel ports 24 through its respective address.

Local interface 14 and address expansion interface 16 may be any data path interface capable of providing communication between an ATM layer device and a plurality of PHY layer devices. In the preferred embodiment of system 10, local interface 14 and address expansion interface 16 conform to the UTOPIA level 2 specification described above.

Amend first paragraph on p. 19:

~~Address expansion device 18 may be configured so that it appears as another PHY layer device to ATM layer device 12.~~ Address expansion device 18 communicates with local interface 14 and address expansion interface 16. As will be described in more detail below, address expansion device 18 is adapted to provide the ATM cells associated with the ATM communication channels received from ATM layer device 12 to the appropriate first channel port 22 based on predefined logic by which address expansion device 18 is programmed. Address expansion device 18 may also be implemented in hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof. For example, address expansion device 18 may be implemented in software or firmware that is stored in a memory and that is executed by a suitable instruction execution system. Address expansion device 18 may also be implemented in hardware with any or a combination of the following technologies, which are all well known in the art: a discrete logic circuit(s) having logic gates for implementing logic functions upon data signals, an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) having appropriate combinational logic gates, a programmable gate array(s) (PGA), a field programmable gate array (FPGA), *etc.*